

NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting September 18, 2002

A meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission was held on Wednesday, September 18, 2002, scheduled for 9:30 a.m., in the Town of Truckee Council Chambers, 10183 Truckee Airport Road, Truckee, California

Members Present: Ann Guerra, Chet Krage, Elizabeth Martin, Josh Susman, Peter Van Zant

Members Absent: Kerry Arnett, Linda Stevens

Staff Present: Dan Landon, Executive Director; Nancy Holman, Administrative Services Officer; Mike Woodman, Transportation Planner; Toni Perry, Administrative Assistant

Standing Orders: Chairman Van Zant convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: For discussion and possible action.

1. Financial Reports: June, Period 13, July.

Commissioner Krage questioned if the funds loaned to the Nevada County Transit Services Division to purchase seven buses had been repaid with the state's Proposition 116 funds. Executive Director Landon replied in the affirmative and stated the repayment would be posted in September's financial report.

Motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner Susman to accept the financial reports. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Correspondence:

I. Peter Van Zant, Supervisor, Nevada County Board of Supervisors - Thank you letter to Caltrans District 3 Director for discussing project issues for Nevada County.

Executive Director Landon reported that Jody Lonergan, Caltrans District 3 Director, and members of her staff were to meet with him and County representatives to discuss the interrelationship between County and Caltrans projects, and to enhance and continue communications between Caltrans and Nevada County.

J. Caltrans District 3 Director, Jody Lonergan - Letter requesting FHWA to lift the prohibition of left-turn movements from the eastbound off-ramp to be reconstructed from I-80 to SR 267.

Executive Director Landon stated the Federal Highways Administration did approve the request to lift the prohibition.

N. NCTC Legislative Update.

Executive Director Landon stated that SB 1768 was chaptered on September 11th. Commissioner Krage stated he would like to know more about Proposition 51 which will be on the November election ballot. He stated Proposition 51 is called, "Distribution of Existing Motor Vehicle Sales and Use Tax" and earmarked 30% of tax on vehicles for transportation. Commissioner Krage expressed concern that the proposition established a parallel or independent commission rather than working with existing bureaucracy. Chairman Van Zant requested Mr. Landon to agendaize Proposition 51 for the next meeting.

In response to Commissioner Martin's question if AB 2637 had been signed by the Governor, Mr. Landon said to his knowledge it had not.

3. Executive Director's Report:

SR 89 South/I-80 Intersection Improvements

Executive Director Landon stated Caltrans had clearly identified the information that would be needed to determine the viability of roundabouts at the SR 89/I-80 intersections and the consultants have determined they can provide that necessary information within the required timeframe. Mr. Landon noted that the Town of Truckee had some funding opportunities that may make the project financially feasible.

In response to Chairman Van Zant's question if roundabout specifications could become part of the Caltrans Design Manual, Mr. Tom Brannon, Project Manager for Caltrans, stated they were headed in that direction and suggested the Commission write a letter to Caltrans urging them to do this. Mr. Brannon suggested that the Commission submit the letter to Caltrans at the same time the October 22nd Truckee roundabout draft report would be submitted. Chairman Van Zant directed staff to prepare a letter for his signature to be reviewed at the next Commission meeting.

SR 20 Turnouts and Passing Lanes

Executive Director Landon reported that Ron Sykes of Caltrans District 3 Traffic Operations had analyzed the SR 20 corridor between Nevada City and I-80 and identified potential turnout and passing lane locations in each direction. Once Mr. Sykes determines the viability of those locations, he will report to the Commission and discuss funding issues and program priorities.

Updated Land Use Information for NCTC Traffic Model and Dorsey Drive Interchange Analysis

Executive Director Landon reported the updated land use information had been sent to Grant Johnson, the traffic modeler. The calibration effort in establishing the base model for 2002 was going well, and when completed, would be forwarded to Caltrans for their review to determine what transportation improvements would be needed based on that land use data.

A Commission discussion ensued regarding the need for the Commission as well as the public to review the land use information. Chairman Van Zant directed staff to release the working draft report to Caltrans and to schedule a public workshop for the next month. Mr. Landon stated he hoped the traffic model would become the

standard criteria for measuring transportation projects and that everyone would be working from a similar data base rather than from separate studies.

Annual Fiscal and Compliance Audits

Executive Director Landon reported that the auditors were currently in the NCTC office doing the annual fiscal and compliance audit reports.

Dorsey Drive Interchange and Related Projects

Executive Director Landon reported that Caltrans has been waiting for the traffic model information in order to do their final analysis of the Dorsey Drive interchange project and then proceed to the design phase. He stated he had provided in the agenda packets a chart showing four projects that are impacted by the Dorsey Drive interchange, the various steps they will need to go through toward construction, their costs, and their scheduling. Mr. Landon will keep the chart updated as the projects progress.

4. Caltrans District 3 Report, Tom Brannon, Project Manager:

Mr. Brannon reported that Caltrans recently realized that their work load was significantly greater than the number of people or consultant resources available to complete the work. Therefore, Caltrans reduced the work load to match the resources they had available. He stated that none of Nevada County's STIP projects had their resources reduced and the projects are moving ahead. Some of the SHOPP projects did have resources reduced and therefore their schedules may be moved back. Mr. Brannon reported on the following Nevada County projects:

SR 20 Safety Project

Caltrans mailed permits to landowners in order for Caltrans to do environmental technical studies on their property, and because of this interaction, Caltrans would like to hold an open house in October to discuss this safety project. Commissioner Martin suggested it be done in the general area of the project and suggested Mr. Brannon work with her to find a location for this event. She also stated she had heard a housing subdivision had been approved by Yuba County which was to be located near the Beale Air Force Base and wanted Mr. Brannon to be aware of this and examine how this development may impact the Highway 20 safety project. She noted that this land was previously occupied by Camp Beale and Caltrans personnel should be aware there may be unexploded bombs in that area. After a discussion with the Commissioners, Mr. Brannon decided to schedule an open house in November. Commissioner Martin strongly encouraged Caltrans to be highly sensitive to landowners and their rights.

Dorsey Drive Project

Caltrans is waiting for PRISM Engineering's traffic analysis to look at the weave created by traffic entering and exiting the freeway between Idaho Maryland Road and Bennett Street. The time frame in which the weave will break down will be critical in determining whether or not the weave has to be corrected before or after the Dorsey Drive Interchange is constructed. It was Mr. Brannon's opinion that constructing a roundabout at the Idaho Maryland Road and East Main Street intersection would act as a meter for traffic entering the freeway. Chairman Van Zant requested Mr. Brannon to keep the Commission updated on this project.

Gold Flat Road Roundabout Project

This is a Caltrans project located at Gold Flat Road on and off ramps at the Hollow Way Ramp/Nevada City Maintenance Yard. The Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA/ED) is scheduled for July 2003. Executive Director Landon stated that because of the congestion that occurs at the Zion and Ridge Road intersection, it was important for staff to work with Caltrans to do a comprehensive analysis of this corridor and not construct an isolated project.

Harmony Ridge Road/Washington Road

This is a Caltrans project to add left turn pocket lanes on SR 20 at Harmony Ridge Road and Washington Road. PA/ED is scheduled for July 2004.

Wolf/Combie Road to Grass Valley

Mr. Brannon reported that the Federal Highways Administration's (FHWA) reviewer, after looking at the preliminary environmental mapping, is sure this project will change from a negative declaration under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and federal Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to an Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Study (EIR/EIS). The time needed to complete the EIR/EIS will add time to the PA/ED completion schedule. Executive Director Landon stated it would be good to have the public review what is being planned and what has been done. He suggested holding a public meeting in November. Commissioner Krage suggested the Commission review the information before it was presented to the public. Chairman Van Zant suggested that it be a Caltrans/NCTC co-sponsored workshop with NCTC assisting in advertising the event.

Lime Kiln/Pekolee Road

This project is a smaller SHOPP project within the limits of the larger SR 49 widening project and will bring the road up to a forty foot cross section between Lime Kiln Road and Pekolee Road. Also there is a minor project with a left turn channelization just north of this project at Round Valley Road and Quail Creek Drive. Mr. Brannon would like these two projects to be combined for construction. PA/ED is scheduled for October 2003.

SR 49-Construct a Two Way Left Turn Lane at Indian Flat and Newtown Roads

The PA/ED is scheduled to be ready at the end of the month with the plans being sent to the engineers in December.

SR 49-Restore Shoulder and Improve Roadside Drainage at Seven Miles North of Nevada City and 6/10th of a Mile North of the South Yuba River Bridge

The PA/ED is scheduled for July 2003.

Install Fiber Optic System along I-80 through the Truckee Bypass

This is a Caltrans project scheduled in the future. This project will be the installation of a fiber optic line that will be done fairly easily and will add future capacity for communication.

SR 89 "Mousehole" Project

PA/ED is scheduled for July 2005. Executive Director Landon noted that an accident in the "Mousehole" had been reported in a letter from a resident which raises the level of concern regarding the safety of this facility. Mr. Brannon stated he would see if there was an opportunity to use "Safe Route to School" money to assist in this project.

SR 89/I-80 Roundabouts

Caltrans has a signed project report for signalization at the SR 89/I-80 intersections, but has rewritten it to include the fact that they are working with the Town of Truckee in possibly doing a roundabout as an alternative to using signals. By the end of November, Caltrans will need project approval to show that roundabouts will work at this location to solve the safety and traffic problems. The environmental document will not have to be done by November, but the schedule for one will have to be established.

Truckee Landscape Mitigation Project

Caltrans just received the right-of-way certification for the Truckee Bypass landscape mitigation project and is bidding for the work tomorrow. Relinquishment of SR 267 is on schedule to be advertised next month.

Mr. Brannon asked the Commission's approval to move STIP money scheduled to be used next year to this year's landscape mitigation project. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner Susman directing staff to create a letter for the Chair to sign approving Caltrans request to move their STIP money to this year for the landscape mitigation project at the Truckee SR 267 Bypass. Motion passed unanimously.

Wolf/Combie Road to the Placer County Line

Caltrans received a low bid at 21% under the engineer's estimate and has recommended the job be awarded to Teichert Construction. The total savings is \$1.8 million. This money will be available only after the project is completed and could be used for a variety of projects.

Commissioner Krage asked about construction starting this fall from Combie Road to the Placer County line. Mr. Brannon replied nothing could be done until next spring. He said the intersection improvements would be done the first season, but it would take more than one season to complete widening the Bear River Bridge. Commissioner Krage stated that due to a lot of missed expectations on the SR 49 widening project, the public should be informed as what to expect from this time forward, including the fact the project has been awarded. Executive Director Landon asked Mr. Brannon to inquire if the Bear River Bridge could be open to traffic within a single construction season. Commissioner Krage stated there were a number of street lighting lamps from Wolf/Combie toward the bridge and asked if they were to be heritage-treated. Mr. Brannon responded he would do a follow-up to both questions.

SR 49/Uren Street Project

Chairman Van Zant stated he knew standard poles had already been ordered for this location, but asked Mr. Brannon if the type of heritage poles used at the Combie Road intersection (standard poles with a painted clamshell decorative base with a decorative luminaire) could be used at the SR 49/Uren Street location. Mr. Brannon said he would check into it. He stated he realized the Commission had repeatedly made it known in the past what they wanted, but for reasons unknown to him, heritage poles have not been installed on several of the projects. A Commission discussion ensued regarding use of ornamental lighting. Chairman Van Zant then directed staff to provide

copies of resolutions regarding ornamental lighting to Mr. Brannon so the information would be available at the time a project development team began a new project. Mr. Brannon was asked to look into finding out the cost difference using heritage poles for this location. Mr. Brannon made the commitment that for each project development team he was responsible for, the team would be made aware that this is what Nevada County wanted, and if it was not possible to install ornamental poles, he would come back to the Commission with a reason why.

Miscellaneous

Harriet McKay, a member of the audience, asked the Commission to ask the Mayor of Nevada City to schedule a city council meeting to review the projects in and around Nevada City. Chairman Van Zant directed Mr. Landon to do this communication.

CONSENT ITEMS:

5. NCTC Minutes: July 17, 2002. *Approved.*
6. Allocation Request from Grass Valley: *Resolution 02-30 adopted.*
7. Conflict of Interest Code: *Resolution 02-31 adopted.*

Motion made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner Guerra to approve consent items. Motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

8. Transit Development Plan Updates/LSC Transportation Consultant's Contract:

Executive Director Landon stated that after holding meetings with Nevada County staff and SSTAC members, additional work has been identified as being important to enable the community to come to a consensus on adopting the Transit Development Plans. Mr. Landon requested the Commission to authorize a new contract with LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc to accomplish a Dial-A-Ride Efficiency Zone Study, Gold Country Stage Fare Revision Impact Study, and to fund a public participation process.

With regard to the proposed Dial-A-Ride Efficiency Zone Study, Commissioners asked that the study include looking at patrons who are ADA eligible and recognize the service priorities that had been established for a paratransit system a year ago.

Michael Hill-Weld, Director of Transit Services stated Telecare was completing ADA certification sheets on all of their clients and the consultant would be using the service criteria Commissioner Guerra referred to as part of their analysis.

Geoff Straw of LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc. stated they would first look at operating costs and then the fare structure based on the type of users. Telecare was now using a computerized program to track origin, destination, and type of user. He noted that the most difficult problem was establishing a policy in how to apply this information and how to make it as simple as possible for the dispatcher and manager to administer the program. Mr. Straw stated that the hardest policy to establish was conditional eligibility and this would be included in the study. The study will recommend a maximum subsidy per trip. This maximum subsidy amount will be one of the factors used to establish zone service. In completing this study, they will overlay geographic zones with the

types of users (ADA versus non-ADA) and incorporate the criteria that was established to prioritize service levels.

At the conclusion of this discussion, Commissioner Martin made a motion to accept the draft reports for the eastern and western Nevada County Transit Development Plans for FY 2002-2007. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Susman. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Landon introduced Ms. Margarita R. de Nevárez, a SSTAC member from Truckee, who read her letter regarding the concerns of the Hispanic community in Truckee with the daily hazards they faced walking or riding their bikes to and from the Donner Creek Mobile Home Park through the "Mousehole" as a means to get to the stores, the hospital, the school, and other destinations. She believed fifteen to thirty people would use transportation services on a daily basis if they were provided. She also read a letter written by Maria Lorena Avila, a resident of Truckee for thirty years, who expressed the desire to see Dial-A-Ride's fees reduced. She stated she would like the Trolley to go more places, extend their hours as well as extend Dial-A-Ride's hours, include weekends, and have year-round services for people who did not drive or own cars.

Ms. de Nevárez read a letter from Tranquilino Rivera Cruz, a bicyclist who was injured inside the "Mousehole" on September 9th, asking that, "the responsible parties of Communication and Transportation take the adequate measures in order to assure safety for people passing by bicycle under the bridge in order to prevent more victims".

Ms. de Nevárez asked, "are we waiting for fatalities to occur before doing something about this? Could TDA funds be used to help this unmet transit need?"

Executive Director Landon assured Chairman Van Zant the input from the letters will be included in the completion of the eastern Transit Development Plan and will be used as staff completes the transit needs assessment. He explained to Ms. de Nevárez that Truckee uses all of its TDA funds for transit.

A Commission discussion ensued regarding how the Donner Creek Mobile Home Park was being served by transit and what solutions were available. Geoff Straw stated they had reviewed the options for serving the area and had difficulty in finding a solution to the situation. Commissioner Susman responded with information regarding TART and the Truckee transportation services, and noted eastern Nevada County had a significant amount of unmet transit needs. Commissioner Susman asked that the study provide recommendations to assist the community in integrating the needs at the local level with the resources identified in the Transit Development Plan.

Chairman Van Zant asked when this unmet need would come back to the Commission. Executive Director Landon responded that staff's proposal was to not bring the transit needs assessment back until the JPA issues in western Nevada County were completed, since the state would not approve the document until they were. He stated he would work with Mr. Straw and Mike Woodman, NCTC's Transportation Planner, to review this problem and see if there was a solution.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin to authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc. to complete the additional work requested and to amend the 2002/03 OWP to include the costs for this work. Commissioner Susman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Membership

A motion was made by Commissioner Krage and seconded by Commissioner Martin that Stan Moscini and Frank Durham be appointed to the SSTAC. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Letter to Members of the Joint Powers Agreement

Executive Director Landon explained this was a draft letter to members of the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to reiterate the need to address the JPA issue in western Nevada County. Commissioner Stevens had been appointed by the Grass Valley City Council to work with Gene Haroldsen and the County on this issue. Chairman Van Zant stated the County was providing direction to their staff to work out the language of the JPA.

Mr. Hill-Weld said the member jurisdictions understood the necessity of amending the JPA and it was just a matter of establishing a meeting date and making amendments. Commissioner Martin stated that the people who understood the technical issues needed to come to agreement and bring it to the Commission if there were something unresolved.

Noting the letter sent in June by Executive Director Landon to members of the JPA, Chairman Van Zant stated that another letter from the Commission was not needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Commissioner Susman introduced Susan Diane, Executive Director of the Truckee Trails Foundation. Ms. Diane stated the Foundation was only six months old that had a six-member board. The Foundation would be actively looking for opportunities to get trails considered along with new projects. Commissioner Susman noted that Susan Diane was very proactive in making sure developers or applicants of projects consider trails and public access in their project application process. Ms. Diane stated it was one of the roles of the Foundation to see that public trails that are placed in a project are linked to the next project.

Dan Wilkins, Public Director of the Town of Truckee, expressed his appreciation for the work done both by NCTC and Caltrans staff in partnering with the Town on the SR 89/I-80 roundabout project.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Michael G. Woodman, NCTC Transportation Planner, introduced Stan Moscini, who was in the audience, as the newly appointed SSTAC member.

Commissioner Susman stated Amtrak had a Capitol Corridor train display in Truckee and commented how nice it would be to extend the Corridor to Reno.

Commissioner Martin stated it would be a good solution to the Tahoe transportation problem if people would use the train. She announced that the Long Term Care Integration Council of Nevada County, with help from AARP and Helpline, was sponsoring a fair on October 10th at the Nevada County Fairgrounds from nine in the morning till three in the afternoon featuring panels on how to live with disabilities. The Helpline number is 273-2273.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 16, 2002 at 7:00 p.m., at the City of Grass Valley Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Motion made by Commissioner Krage to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Susman. Motion passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Nancy D. Holman, Administrative Services Officer

Approved on: _____

By: _____
Peter Van Zant, Chairman
Nevada County Transportation Commission